At the time this Express was published, 43 states and Puerto Rico were reporting widespread influenza activity and the proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness exceeded the national baseline (CDC 2017). Hospitals across the country are limiting visitation, and some facilities are using overflow areas to manage and treat patients. With spring storms right around the corner, many of you have your hands full, responding, updating plans, and mitigating your facilities for the next challenge. The ASPR TRACIE team is honored to support our stakeholders, subscribers, and Subject Matter Expert Cadre members any way we can.

This Express includes information on upcoming and recordings of past webinars, updates and information on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Emergency Preparedness (EP) Rule, and ASPR TRACIE domain updates.

**Register Now for the Joint NETEC-ASPR TRACIE Highly Infectious Disease Exercise Planning Webinar (3/7/2017, from 2:00-3:00 EST)**

Join the National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC) and ASPR TRACIE for the [Highly Infectious Disease Exercise Planning Tools](https://www.asprtracie.org) webinar, where you can learn more about the suite of free, fully customizable ASPR- and CDC-approved, HSEP-compliant exercise materials NETEC has developed. These speakers will share their firsthand experience developing materials and carrying out exercises that support Ebola-specific HPP measures:

- **Richard Hunt**, MD, Senior Medical Advisor, ASPR National Healthcare Preparedness Programs
• **Nicholas Cagliuso**, Sr., PhD, MPH, Assistant Vice President, Emergency Management, New York City Health + Hospitals
• **Theodore Cieslak**, MD, Associate Director, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Center for Biosecurity, Biopreparedness, and Emerging Infectious Diseases
• **Syra Madad**, DHSc, MSc, MCP, Director, System-wide Special Pathogens Program, New York City Health + Hospitals.

This webinar will take place from **2:00-3:00 p.m. EST**.

NETEC is also hosting four preparedness and simulation training sessions for healthcare workers, public health officials and clinicians in March, April and June. [Click here](#) to find out more.

**New Webinar Recordings Available**

We also just released the [HPP Coalition Surge Test](#) webinar, where the following presenters provided an overview of the tool and share their experiences using the test:

- **ASPR/NHPP**: Scott Dugas, Kevin Sheehan, and Bill Mangieri
- **South Dakota**: Greg Santa Maria (Sanford Health), Sandy Frentz (Sioux Falls Public Health), Kevin Schlosser (Avera McKennan)
- **Texas**: Lori Upton, Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council
- **Michigan**: Mark Van Dyke (Spectrum Health), Julie Bulson (Spectrum Health), Mike Gregg (Region 6 HCC), and Linda Scott (Michigan Department of Health and Human Services)

Access the [Learning More About the 2017-2022 Healthcare Preparedness and Response Capabilities](#) webinar, featuring Dr. John Hick and Melissa Harvey discussing the capabilities, how they have evolved over time, and what they mean for healthcare facilities.

Is there a topic you would like to see covered in a future webinar? [Let us know](#)!
CMS EP Rule Updates

To support CMS’ recently issued Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid Participating Providers and Suppliers Final Rule, ASPR TRACIE has been providing technical assistance and sharing helpful resources and promising practices. Yale New Haven Health just released results from a crosswalk that mapped various emergency- and disaster-related standards to the CMS Rule. And we recently updated the CMS EP Rule: Resources at Your Fingertips document, which includes links to key resources, such as CMS’ fourth round of frequently asked questions (FAQ) and clarifications on definitions. For more information, access the ASPR TRACIE page dedicated to CMS Resources.

Updated and On Deck: ASPR TRACIE Documents

We recently updated and reorganized the Zika: Resources at Your Fingertips document to make the information even easier to access.

Issue 1 of the next volume of The Exchange is coming soon! This issue will highlight disaster behavioral health and responder and community resilience. What strategies have you incorporated to boost community and/or staff resilience? We want to hear from you. Please email us your input (including tips, plans, and templates) to be considered as a future ASPR TRACIE resource.

Click on the links to be taken to past issues of The Exchange:

- Issue 1 (Crisis Standards of Care)
- Issue 2 (Cybersecurity and Cyberhygiene)
- Issue 3 (Preparing for and Responding to No-Notice Events)

Domain Updates

There are currently 42 comprehensively developed Topic Collections in the Technical Resources domain, including the most recently released Utility Failures collection and the recently updated Explosives and Mass Shooting collection. Our next collection will feature resources dedicated to Patient Movement and Tracking. Follow this link to access all comprehensively developed collections. Don’t forget to log in and rate and comment on resources in Topic Collections or the Resource Library!
The Assistance Center has processed more than 1230 TA requests from a variety of stakeholders (including nearly 200 related to the CMS EP Rule). We maintain a summary of many of the TA requests received, listed alphabetically. We encourage you to reach out if you need assistance.

Did you know you can access ASPR TRACIE webinars and responses to select TA requests on the Information Exchange (IE) domain? Join nearly 2400 of your colleagues in the IE and check out the latest threads on emergency management plan tools and sample budget forms/budget amendments. Register for the IE now to join the conversation or to learn more about setting up private topic areas. Need help navigating the IE? Check out this quick how-to video!